

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

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R 281412Z JAN 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, PA

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: BRANIFF AIRLINES SCHEDULES

1. BRANIFF AIRLINES HAS ADVISED DEPARTMENT THAT PARAGUAY AVIATION AUTHORITIES HAVE INDICATED THEIR INTENT TO PREVENT AIRLINE FROM IMPLEMENTING ITS PROPOSED SCHEDULE WHICH IS TO GO INTO EFFECT FEBRUARY 1. BRANIFF PROPOSES TO INCREASE ITS US-PARAGUAY FLIGHTS TO 4 SOUTHBOUND AND 4 NORTHBOUND. PARAGUAYAN AUTHORITIES REPORTEDLY ARE INSISTING THAT PRESENT SCHEDULE OF 2 SOUTHBOUND AND 3 NORTHBOUND FLIGHTS BE RETAINED. BRANIFF FURTHER INFORMED DEPARTMENT THAT AIRLINE'S V.P. FOR SOUTH AMERICA, CHARLES SOUTH, PLANS TO DISCUSS SUBJECT WITH PRESIDENT STROESSNER ON JANUARY 30. AIRLINE HAS ALSO REQUESTED DEPARTMENT TO MAKE SEPARATE REPRESENTATION TO GOP ON BEHALF BRANIFF.

2. DEPARTMENT AND CAB ARE CONCERNED WITH APPARENT PARAGUAYAN ATTEMPT TO INSTITUTE UNILATERAL CONTROLS OVER
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SCHEDULING OF BRANIFF'S FLIGHTS. SUCH ACTION WOULD BE IN-

CONSISTENT WITH UNITED STATES-PARAGUAY AIR TRANSPORT SERVICES AGREEMENT OF FEBRUARY 16, 1948. SECTION II OF THE ANNEX TO AGREEMENT LISTS PRINCIPLES GOVERNING CAPACITY TO

BE PROVIDED BY AIRLINES. IF EITHER OF THE PARTIES WISH TO MODIFY ANY OF THE PRINCIPLES SET FORTH IN THE AGREEMENT, ARTICLE 10 PROVIDES A FRAMEWORK OF BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS FOR THIS PURPOSE. IT DOES NOT ENVISAGE EITHER PARTY IMPOSING UNILATERAL A PRIORI RESTRICTIONS ON DESIGNATED AIRLINES OF THE OTHER PARTY.

3. EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO MAKE INFORMAL ORAL REPRESENTATION TO APPROPRIATE PARAGUAYAN AUTHORITIES IN ORDER TO DETERMINE WHETHER PARAGUAYANS PLAN TO ACT AS REPORTED. IF SO, EMBASSY SHOULD REGISTER USG CONCERN WITH REPORTED PARAGUAYAN ACTION. EMBASSY MAY DRAW ON PARA 2 ABOVE IN MAKING ITS PRESENTATION.

4. EMBASSY MAY COORDINATE ITS APPROACH WITH RESIDENT BRANIFF REP, SHOFFER, AND WITH SOUTH (WHO WILL CONTACT EMBASSY UPON ARRIVAL IN ASUNCION). KISSINGER

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